

## Editorial

We are proud to announce that *Atlantis* has been designated "Journal of Choice" by the Canadian Women's Studies Association/ Association Canadienne d'Etudes des Femmes (CWSA/ACEF), and we mark that affiliation in two ways. First, we begin with a cluster of articles, introduced by editor Meg Luxton, on transgender, a topic that is of urgent interest to feminists. Second, we open our series of articles of general interest with Lori Chambers' interview with Annis May Timpson, winner of 2003 Annual CWSA Book Prize. Chambers invites Timpson, an Englishwoman, to elaborate on the motives, progress and results of her feminist scholarship. She obliges with a generous and engaging description of both the theoretical groundings and lived experience of researching and writing about Canadian policy on women's employment equity and childcare. Many of the articles that follow reflect aspects of her focus.

Allison Tom explores the struggle of childcare workers in British Columbia to reconcile their commitment to their profession with a variety of signs that they are not valued as social producers. Tom's interviews allow her to theorize beyond the opposition between "love" for children and the low status of their labour as reflected in their pay cheques when she concludes that the workers are in part sustained by democratic workplaces and other feminist principles and strategies. Tom's study is complemented by Iara Lessa's concern with devalued maternal work. Her article, which focuses on the example of Toronto, explains how Canadian social welfare policies have redefined the identity and status of single mothers and this to their detriment. Abigail B. Bakan and Audrey Kobayashi, like Tom, are concerned with British Columbian experience, and, like Lessa, explain the local effects of government policy. Their article tracks the details of a specific and wide-ranging backlash against employment equity in British Columbia, whereby the progressive policies established by New Democrats were, under a new Liberal government, subjected to unpublicized erasure.

Three of our articles illustrate the complexities of women's organizing at the local, national, and international levels. Ruth Magaly San Martin and Lisa Barnoff address issues crucial to contemporary feminist organizations by assessing intense and divisive events of ten years ago concerning race and power at Nellie's, a women's shelter in Toronto. Martin and Barnoff's careful documentation of the events and print media's tendentious publicity of them offers insight into the ways feminist groups might approach anti-racist organizing. L. Pauline Rankin and Krista D. Wilcox, on the other hand, are concerned with how federal public policy creates barriers for and between women. They

examine the ways in which a transition to "gender mainstreaming" has worked to exclude feminist groups from decision making and has moreover disadvantaged "femocrats" in government departments. Joan McFarland's article explores international policies directed to women. She explains the complexities of microcredit for women in Kerala, India, arguing that although the system, unusually, does not follow the banking model so criticized by feminists, it nonetheless fails to empower women. Rikki Andreassen offers insight into the development of women's action and women's rights in Denmark, explaining that the ungended nature of the Danish language together with its Marxian intellectual and activist history created a distinctive second wave movement that nonetheless developed, as in the case of other nations subject to neo-liberal and neo-conservative political culture, into a preoccupation with the individual rather than the collective.

Three articles are concerned with feminist aesthetics in photography, architecture, and literature. Sal Renshaw draws on theories of the male and female gaze to analyse the alternative and intrepid representation of women's bodies in the Breast of Canada calendar. Annmarie Adams explains the ways in which the architecture of the new Women's Library in London's east end reflects and incorporates women's history and feminist aims to create a uniquely woman-centred site that juxtaposes with other contemporary structures in the city.

Marijn Kaplan's "Epistolary Silence in Françoise de Graffigny's *Lettres d'une Péruvienne*" contributes to the uncovering of an eighteenth-century feminist novel published in French, and popular in England once translated, but which only recently has re-emerged. Kaplan examines such themes as Graffigny's treatment of an opposition between "enlightened" Europe and "alien" empire; the marriage debate; women's coming to voice; the interpretation of silence.

As always, *Atlantis* articles encompass a range of disciplines, theories, methods, and intellectual generations, too. We conclude by showcasing an essay by an undergraduate student that reflects contemporary women's studies scholarship. Alison Symons' "Criticizing the Critical Male Gaze in *Jane Eyre* and *Villette*" was awarded the prize for best essay on women's literature as part of the proceedings of the twenty-fourth annual Atlantic Association of Undergraduate English Conference, held at Mount Saint Vincent University. Her excellent reading of episodes from each novel reveals the operation of an internalized male gaze that divides the consciousness of each heroine. It is cheering to conclude our issue with a student's work that demonstrates critical poise and feminist

insight.

We are pleased to present as cover art a photo of Causeway Road, Bushmills, Northern Ireland. Taken by Violet Hunter, the photo is part of a collection entitled "Our Natural Environment" in the Snapshot on Identity Project of the Moyle Women's Forum, Northern Ireland. The striking image was chosen for the project because "we liked the symbolism of the branches reaching across each other and intermingling as it seemed relevant to what we were trying to do in our cross community project." We at *Atlantis* agree.

*Linda Kealey and Rhoda Zuk*

## earthbound

gravity loves the body  
as flesh adores the earth.

if words were grapes,  
pulp and juice, to suck and swallow,  
i would pick them.  
if language were hammock to lift and turn in  
i'd lie in it awhile.  
if paragraphs were boats for hovering over space,  
i would ride always.

blood and bones cleave to matter.  
arms want arms, not sentences,  
hands need hands, not phrases to hold.  
inside there is a hunger for food and drink and sleep;  
movement is my story;  
sleep my only poem.

*Monika Lee*